

Senate Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation Committee

HB 418 - Authorize investor owned livestock slaughter and processing plants

Testimony from Robert Reilly – 2057 Stage Coach Rd. – Stanford, MT 59479

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Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and Committee members, my name is Robert Reilly and I operate our commercial cow/calf ranch in Judith Basin County and three years ago we bought my wife's fathers ranch in Dawson County. He owns 200 head of wild (feral) thorobred horses and has no intention of selling them with current canner horse prices. In our contract the horses were to be removed from the ranch so that our son would be able to expand our herd. The land can not support any amount of cattle with the wild horses that currently consume all the grass. We would like to be able to continue in the cow/calf ranching business but we are concerned that we will not be able to make land payments without being able to generate income off the real-estate that we have purchased to continue ranching in the great state of Montana.

**2009 Montana Legislature**

[Additional Bill Links](#)   [PDF \(with line numbers\)](#)

HOUSE BILL NO. 592

INTRODUCED BY L. RANDALL, BEAN, BONIEK, GETZ, HINKLE, TAYLOR

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS ON STATE PARTICIPATION IN A NATIONAL ANIMAL VERIFICATION SYSTEM; ESTABLISHING A VOLUNTARY SOURCE VERIFICATION PROGRAM; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Restrictions on state participation in national animal identification system -  
- VOLUNTARY SOURCE VERIFICATION PROGRAM. (1) The department or another state agency, acting alone or in conjunction with any source verification program, may not:

(a) mandate, coerce, use exclusionary tactics, or otherwise force participation in the national animal identification system or any other animal identification system;

(b) register premises or real property, assign premises identification numbers, or otherwise enroll a person or the person's premises in the national animal identification system or a similar state system without the person's prior knowledge and consent;

(c) withhold indemnity from a person based on the person's status of participation in the national animal identification system or a similar state system; or

(d) deny, revoke, or limit services, certificates, licenses, permits, grants, or other benefits or incentives to a person based on the person's status of participation in the national animal identification system or a similar state system.

(2) (A) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ESTABLISH A VOLUNTARY SOURCE VERIFICATION PROGRAM.

(B) A PERSON MAY WITHDRAW FROM A VOLUNTARY SOURCE VERIFICATION PROGRAM AT ANY TIME, AND THE PERSON'S PERSONAL INFORMATION MUST BE DELETED FROM THE PROGRAM'S DATABASE.

(C) ONLY THE STATE VETERINARIAN APPOINTED PURSUANT TO 81-1-301 AND THE VETERINARIAN'S STAFF MAY ACCESS INFORMATION STORED IN THE VOLUNTARY SOURCE VERIFICATION PROGRAM.

(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REGISTER A PERSON'S LIVESTOCK IN THE VOLUNTARY SOURCE VERIFICATION PROGRAM AFTER THE PERSON APPLIES FOR THE PROGRAM BY SUBMITTING A SIGNED APPLICATION FORM AS PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT. AN APPLICATION FORM MUST

We have contacted the Human officer in Dawson County and have been unsuccessful in removing the horses that are sick and dieing. The Humane Society was able to view the horses last spring after we produced picture of mares that had died in birth. They are unable to do anything to help the horses that are currently on the ranch, and the county does not have the resources to care for them. The department of livestock is unable to charge for trespass or assist in any way. Our only option is to file for an Agister's Lien on the horses and have a sheriff's sale. We have had to hire an attorney to file the Agister's Lien and have had to spend nearly \$8000 dollars to educate the Dawson County Sheriff and the County Attorney on how to execute the <sup>12</sup>lean. We do not believe that it is our obligation to educate the officials in Dawson County on how to do their job, but this seems to be our only option at this time.

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

- END -

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**Latest Version of HB 592 (HB0592.02)**

Processed for the Web on February 20, 2009 (1:48pm)

New language in a bill appears underlined, deleted material appears stricken.

Sponsor names are handwritten on introduced bills, hence do not appear on the bill until it is reprinted.

See the status of this bill for the bill's primary sponsor.

Status of this Bill | 2009 Legislature | Leg. Branch Home

This bill in WP 5.1 | All versions of all bills (WP 5.1 format)

Authorized print version w/line numbers (PDF format)

[ NEW SEARCH ]

Prepared by Montana Legislative Services

(406) 444-3064

Mr. Parker from the Billings livestock yards has been in contact with us as well as Mr. Greiman (horse owner) to purchase the horses and has not been able to convince the owner to sell the horses. Mr. Greiman has stated that the prices are too low. After the processing plants were closed in the USA prices have declined to the point where the commission is more than the horse is worth.

Please understand that we just want to have the option to take wild feral horses to a facility that will humanely process them and stop the unnecessary suffering that has taken place over the past 20 years of inbreeding and neglect. Thank you for your time Senators.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- (I) A CONSPICUOUS NOTICE THAT THE PROGRAM IS VOLUNTARY;
- (II) A DISCLOSURE OF THE TYPES OF INFORMATION COLLECTED UNDER THE PROGRAM;
- (III) NOTICE OF THE PERSONS TO WHOM THE INFORMATION COLLECTED UNDER THE PROGRAM MAY BE DISCLOSED; AND
- (IV) NOTICE THAT THE PERSON ENROLLING AN ANIMAL, LIVESTOCK, OR PREMISES IN THE PROGRAM MAY WITHDRAW FROM THE PROGRAM AT ANY TIME AND THAT PERSONAL INFORMATION MUST BE DELETED FROM THE PROGRAM'S DATABASE.

~~(2)~~(3) ~~As~~ SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (5), AS long as it does not violate the provisions of ~~subsection~~ SUBSECTIONS (1) AND (2), nothing in this section prohibits:

- (a) the department from establishing or participating in disease control programs specifically designed to address a specific disease in a specific species of livestock;
- (b) private agricultural industry organizations from establishing a source verification program;
- (c) a person from voluntarily participating in the national animal identification system.

~~(3)~~(4) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

- (a) "Livestock" means cattle, horses, mules, asses, sheep, llamas, alpacas, bison, swine, ostriches, rheas, emus, goats, and other animals for purposes of disease prevention, control, and eradication.
- (b) "National animal identification system" or "NAIS" means the program established by the United States department of agriculture in 9 CFR, parts 71 and 77 through 80, or any component of the NAIS, including:
  - (i) premises identification or property identification by number;
  - (ii) animal identification;
  - (iii) tracking or surveillance of domesticated animals; and
  - (iv) participation in NAIS by an individual state.
- (c) "Premises" means a location where livestock are held, managed, or boarded.
- (d) "Source verification program" means a program that tracks individual animals or groups of animals for the purpose of determining the origin of the animal or group, the identity of all other animals that have been in contact with the animal or group, or all premises at which the animal or group has been held. The term includes registration of premises and animal identification.

(5) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION PROHIBITS VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION IN ANY SOURCE VERIFICATION PROGRAM.

**NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 81, chapter 2, and the provisions of Title 81, chapter 2, apply to [section 1].

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## AGISTER'S LIEN SALES

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Any person who has lawful possession of a piece of personal property and who has rendered any service to the owner thereof, such as pasturing, repairing, safekeeping, etc., has a special lien against the property for compensation for his services. The lien is dependant on claimant's retaining possession of personal property and is most commonly claimed against vehicles and livestock.

The lien created by such services does not take precedence over any perfected security interests under the Uniform Commercial Codes – Secured Transactions or other recorded liens on the property involved unless, within thirty days from the time of receiving the property, the person intending to perform the services and assert a lien on the property gave notice in writing to the lien holder of record, stating his intention to assert a lien and stating the nature and approximate amount of service and material intended to be performed and furnished.

If payment for the services or materials is not made within thirty days after the performance or furnishing of the same, the person entitled to a lien may enforce the lien through an Agister's Lien Sale. This instruction sheet and attached claim forms will help guide the claimant through the necessary steps in preparation for the Sheriff's Sale. All Sheriff's Sales have to be posted in three public places in Gallatin County. The Notice of Sale must be posted at least five days, but not more than ten days prior to sale. In addition the Notice must be published once in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county before the scheduled sale date. We also mail a copy of the Notice to the lien claimant and to the last known owner and lienholder of record if their addresses are known.

A Sheriff's Deputy will attend the scheduled time and place of the sale and conduct the sale as a public auction selling the personal property to the highest bidder for cash. After the sale, the Sheriff's Civil Clerk will issue a Sheriff's Certification of Sale to the purchaser of the property. This certificate will be mailed to the purchaser within 20 days of sale. In many cases, the agister's lien claimant is the only bidder in attendance at the sale, and therefore, is the successful bidder for an amount less than the lien claimed against the property. In that case, the claimant does not actually remit the amount of his bid to the Deputy, but the Civil Clerk shows on the Certificate of Sale that the amount bid was credited toward the amount of lien against the property.

If any other party is the successful bidder, he must remit the amount of his bid to the Deputy in cash. Or, if the lien claimant is not the only bidder present and he outbids his claim in order to retain the personal property, he must remit to the Deputy in cash the difference between his bid and his lien claimed. If cash is received, the Civil Clerk will first deduct the amount due for the Sheriff's fees (which would otherwise be paid directly by the lien claimant.) Next, the proceeds will be paid to the lien claimant up to the amount claimed plus costs. Any excess will then be applied toward chattel mortgages or other liens of record with the balance being paid to the owner of the property.

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## **Organizations that support the Horse Industry & oppose any legislation that would impede the market, transport, consumption or use of horses:**

Adams County Colorado Commissioners' Office	Illinois Quarter Horse Association
Agribusiness Association of Iowa	Illinois Quarter Horse Racing Association
Agricultural and Food Transporters Conference	Independent Cattlemen's Association of TX, Inc.
American Trucking Associations	Indiana Beef Cattle Association
Alabama Cattlemen's Association	Indiana Grain & Feed Association
Alabama Pork Producers Association	Indiana Quarter Horse Association
Alabama Quarter Horse Association	Indiana Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association
Alaska State Quarter Horse Association	International Embryo Transfer Society
American Angus Association	International Livestock Identification Association
American Association of Equine Practitioners	Iowa Cattlemen's Association
American Farm Bureau Federation	Iowa Pork Producers Association
American Feed Industry Association	Iowa Quarter Horse Association
American Meat Institute	Kansas Grain & Feed Association
American Meat Science Association	Kansas Livestock Association
American Paint Horse Association	Kansas Pork Association
American Quarter Horse Association	Kansas Quarter Horse Association
American Sheep Industry Association	Kansas Quarter Horse Racing Association
American Society of Animal Science	Kentucky Cattlemen's Association
American Veterinary Medical Association	Kentucky Quarter Horse Association
Animal Health Institute	Livestock Marketing Association
Animal Welfare Council	Louisiana Quarter Horse Association
Arkansas Cattlemen's Association	Maine Quarter Horse Association
Arkansas Quarter Horse Association	Maryland Cattlemen's Association
Arizona Quarter Horse Association	Maryland State Quarter Horse Association
Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America	Massachusetts Quarter Horse Association
Biotechnology Industry Organization	Masters of Foxhounds Association of North America
California Cattlemen's Association	Michigan Agri-Business Association
California Farm Bureau	Michigan Farm Bureau
California Pork Producers Association	Michigan Horse Council
Colorado Cattlemen's Association	Michigan Pork Producers Association
Colorado Horse Council	Michigan Quarter Horse Association
Colorado Livestock Association	Michigan Department of Agriculture
Colorado Outfitters Association	Mid-America Horse Show Association
Colorado Department of Agriculture	Minnesota Pork Producers Association
Connecticut Quarter Horse Association	Minnesota Quarter Horse Association
Council of State Governments-Midwest	Minnesota Quarter Horse Racing Association
Crop Life America	Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association
Delaware Quarter Horse Association	Mississippi Cattlemen's Association
Empire State Quarter Horse Association (New York)	Mississippi Quarter Horse Association
Equine Nutrition and Physiology Society	Missouri Cattlemen's Association
Federation of Animal Science Societies	Missouri Equine Council, Inc.
Feld Entertainment Inc.	Missouri Horse Council
Florida Cattlemen's Association	Missouri Pork Producers Association
Florida Horse Council	Missouri Quarter Horse Association
Florida Quarter Horse Association	Montana Horse Council
Ft. Worth Zoos	Montana Quarter Horse Association
Georgia Cattlemen's Association	Montana Stockgrowers Association
Georgia Quarter Horse Association	National Association of Counties
Grain & Feed Association of Illinois	National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
Hawaii Quarter Horse Association	National Cattlemen's Beef Association
Horsemen's Council of Illinois	National Council of State Legislatures
Idaho Cattle Association	National Chicken Council
Idaho Quarter Horse Association	National Cutting Horse Association
Illinois Beef Association	National Farmers Union
Illinois Department of Agriculture	National Grain & Feed Association
Illinois Farm Bureau	National High School Rodeo Association
Illinois Farmers Livestock Marketing Association	
Illinois Pork Producers Association	

National Milk Producers Federation  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Reining Horse Association  
National Turkey Federation  
Nebraska Cattlemen  
Nebraska Pork Producers Association  
Nevada Cattlemen's Association  
New Jersey Horse Council, Inc.  
New Jersey Quarter Horse Association  
New York State Horse Council, Inc.  
New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association  
New Mexico Federal Lands Council  
New Mexico Wool Growers, Inc.  
North Carolina Cattlemen's Association  
North Carolina Department of Agriculture  
North Carolina Farm Bureau  
North Carolina Horse Council  
North Carolina Pork Council  
North Carolina Quarter Horse Association  
North Dakota Quarter Horse Association  
North Dakota Quarter Horse Racing Assn.  
North Dakota Stockmen Association  
Ohio Agribusiness Association  
Ohio Cattlemen's Association  
Ohio Farm Bureau  
Ohio Horsemen's Council  
Ohio Pork Producers Council  
Ohio Quarter Horse Association  
Ohio Department of Agriculture  
Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association  
Oklahoma Grain & Feed Association  
Oklahoma Pork Council  
Oklahoma Quarter Horse Association  
Oklahoma Quarter Horse Racing Association  
Oregon Quarter Horse Association  
Pacific Coast Quarter Horse Association  
Palomino Breeders of America  
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau  
Pennsylvania Quarter Horse Association  
Percheron Horse Association of America  
Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association  
Quarter Horse Association of Nebraska  
Quarter Horse Racing Association of Indiana  
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union  
Rocky Mountain Quarter Horse Association  
South Carolina Quarter Horse Association  
Southeastern Livestock Expo  
South Dakota Cattlemen's Association  
South Dakota Quarter Horse Association  
South Dakota Pork Producers Council  
South Dakota Trucking Association  
State Ag and Rural Leaders  
Tennessee Cattlemen's Association  
Tennessee Quarter Horse Association  
Tennessee Walking Horse Association  
Texas Farm Bureau  
Texas Cattle Feeders Association  
Texas Grain & Feed Association  
Texas Horse Council  
Texas Pork Producers Association  
Texas Quarter Horse Association  
Texas & Southwest Cattle Raisers Assn.

Texas Department of Agriculture  
Texas Veterinary Medical Association  
United Egg Producers  
United Sioux Tribes of South Dakota  
U.S. Animal Health Association  
U.S. Export Meat Federation  
Utah Cattlemen's Association  
Utah Pork Producers Council  
Utah State Quarter Horse Association  
Vermont Quarter Horse Association  
Virginia Cattlemen's Association  
Virginia Farm Bureau  
Virginia Department of Agriculture  
Virginia State Horse Council  
Virginia Pork Producers Council  
Virginia Quarter Horse Association  
Washington Cattlemen's Association  
Washington State Quarter Horse Association  
West Virginia Quarter Horse Association  
Wisconsin Horse Council  
Wisconsin Pork Association  
Wisconsin Quarter Horse Association  
Wisconsin State Horse Council, Inc.  
Wyoming Farm Bureau  
Wyoming Horse Council  
Wyoming Stock Growers Association  
Wyoming Quarter Horse Association

## State Legislative Initiatives in Support of the Horse Industry:

According to Carolyn Orr who staffs the Council of State Governments – Midwest, there are twenty-two states that have some sort of legislation in the works to support the horse industry and/or oppose any federal or state legislation that would impede the market, transport, consumption, or use of horses. Here is the list as of January of the legislation that was introduced at that time.

### Arkansas

AR HCR  
1004

**AUTHOR:** Ragland (R)

**TITLE:** Horse Processing Facilities

**INTRODUCED:** 01/22/2009

**DISPOSITION:** Pending

**LOCATION:** Senate Agriculture, Forestry and Economic Development Committee

**SUMMARY:**

Requests the state congressional delegation and the Congress of the United States to support horse processing facilities.

**STATUS:**

01/29/2009 Passed HOUSE. \*\*\*\*\*To SENATE.

01/29/2009 To SENATE Committee on AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

### Arizona

AZ SCM  
1001

**AUTHOR:** Pierce (R)

**TITLE:** Equine Resources

**INTRODUCED:** 01/29/2009

**DISPOSITION:** Pending

**LOCATION:** SENATE

**SUMMARY:**

Urges the United States Congress to oppose federal legislation relating to the transporting excess equine resources; relates to the ban on exporting horses for processing.

**STATUS:**

01/29/2009 INTRODUCED.

### Colorado

CO S 151

**SPONSOR:** Isgar (D)

**TITLE:** Sunset Licensing Livestock Slaughterers

**INTRODUCED:** 01/27/2009

**DISPOSITION:** Pending

**LOCATION:** SENATE

**SUMMARY:**

(Drafting Note: This bill includes some statutory sections that have been relocated and renumbered, either without change or with amendments. Existing material that has been relocated is printed in lower-case type, with any amendments indicated by capital letters and stricken type. Former section numbers are supplied in brackets for comparison purposes.) Allows the licensing of slaughterers of livestock through the department of agriculture.

**STATUS:**

02/05/2009 From SENATE Committee on AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES: Reported favorably with amendment.

02/05/2009 In SENATE. To second reading.

## **Illinois**

IL H 583

**SPONSOR:** Sacia (R)

**TITLE:** Illinois Horse Meat Act

**INTRODUCED:** 02/05/2009

**DISPOSITION:** Pending

**LOCATION:** House Rules Committee

**SUMMARY:**

Amends the Illinois Horse Meat Act. Restores language that exempted certain types of horse meat from regulation under the Act. Repeals a provision that prohibits the slaughter of horses for human consumption. Amends the Animals Intended for Food Act. Expands the definition of "animal" to include "horses, mules, or other equidae". Amends the Illinois Equine Infectious Anemia Control Act. Allows equidae more than 12 months of age to enter the State.

**STATUS:**

02/06/2009 To HOUSE Committee on RULES.

## **Minnesota**

MN S 133

**AUTHOR:** Dille (R)

**TITLE:** Horse Processing and Transportation

**INTRODUCED:** 01/22/2009

**DISPOSITION:** Pending

**LOCATION:** Senate Agriculture and Veterans Committee

**SUMMARY:**

Memorializes Congress to oppose federal legislation that interferes with a states ability to direct the transport or processing of horses.

**STATUS:**

01/22/2009 INTRODUCED.

01/22/2009 To SENATE Committee on AGRICULTURE AND VETERANS.

## **Missouri**

MO SCR 8

**SPONSOR:** Shoemyer (D)

**TITLE:** Horse Processing

**INTRODUCED:** 01/15/2009

**DISPOSITION:** Pending

**LOCATION:** Senate Rules, Joint Rules, Resolutions and Ethics Committee

**SUMMARY:**

Urges the U.S. Congress to support the continuation of horse processing in the United States.

**STATUS:**

01/20/2009 To SENATE Committee on RULES, JOINT RULES, RESOLUTIONS AND ETHICS.

MO HCR 19

**SPONSOR:** Wright B (R)

**TITLE:** Horse Processing

**INTRODUCED:** 01/28/2009

**DISPOSITION:** Pending

**LOCATION:** HOUSE

**SUMMARY:**

Urges Congress to oppose federal legislation that interferes with a state's ability to direct the transport or processing of horses.

**STATUS:**

01/28/2009 INTRODUCED.

## **Montana**

MT D 1801

**AUTHOR:** Office of Perry

**TITLE:** Horse Transportation Planning

**PREFILED:** 12/05/2008

**DISPOSITION:** Pending

**LOCATION:** Draft

**SUMMARY:**

Encourages consideration of horse transportation planning.

**STATUS:**

01/22/2009 Draft delivered to Requester.

MT SJR 17 **AUTHOR:** Perry (R)

**TITLE:** Horse Transportation Planning

**INTRODUCED:** 01/26/2009

**LAST AMEND:** 02/09/2009

**DISPOSITION:** Pending

**LOCATION:** SENATE

**SUMMARY:**

Encourages consideration of horse transportation planning.

**STATUS:**

02/09/2009 Amended on SENATE floor.

MT D 1907

**AUTHOR:** Butcher (R)

**TITLE:** Livestock

**PREFILED:** 12/22/2008

**DISPOSITION:** Pending

**LOCATION:** Draft

**SUMMARY:**

Authorizes investor owned livestock slaughter and processing plants.

**STATUS:**

01/31/2009 Draft delivered to Requester.

MT H 418

**AUTHOR:** Butcher (R)

**TITLE:** Livestock Slaughter and Processing Plants

**INTRODUCED:** 02/02/2009

**DISPOSITION:** Pending

**LOCATION:** House Agriculture Committee

**SUMMARY:**

Authorizes investor owned livestock slaughter and processing plants.

**STATUS:**

02/02/2009 INTRODUCED.

02/02/2009 Filed as Draft 1907.

02/02/2009 To HOUSE Committee on AGRICULTURE.

## **North Dakota**

ND SCR

4021

**AUTHOR:** Miller (R)

**TITLE:** Regulated Horse Processing Facilities

**INTRODUCED:** 01/30/2009

**DISPOSITION:** Pending

**LOCATION:** Senate Agriculture Committee

**SUMMARY:**

Urges Congress to recognize the need for regulated horse processing facilities in the United States.

**STATUS:**

01/30/2009 INTRODUCED.

01/30/2009 To SENATE Committee on AGRICULTURE.

ND H 1491

**AUTHOR:** Johnson D (R)

**TITLE:** Brand Law Penalty Imposition

**INTRODUCED:** 01/19/2009

**LAST AMEND:** 02/10/2009

**DISPOSITION:** Pending

**LOCATION:** HOUSE

**SUMMARY:**

Relates to penalties imposed for violation of brand laws. Allows for the transport of cattle, horses, or mules that have not had an official brand inspection to an auction market that is located in a bordering state and which has been designated by rule as an official brand inspection market.

**STATUS:**

02/10/2009 Committee amendment adopted on HOUSE floor.

ND H 1496

**AUTHOR:** Froelich (D)

**TITLE:** Equine Processing Facility Study

**INTRODUCED:** 01/19/2009

**LAST AMEND:** 02/10/2009

**DISPOSITION:** Pending

**LOCATION:** House Appropriations Committee

**SUMMARY:**

Provides for the Department of Commerce to conduct an equine processing facility feasibility study.

**STATUS:**

02/10/2009 Committee amendment adopted on HOUSE floor.

02/10/2009 Rereferred to HOUSE Committee on APPROPRIATIONS.

**South Dakota**

SD S 114

**AUTHOR:** Kloucek (D)

**TITLE:** Equine Processing Facility

**INTRODUCED:** 01/28/2009

**DISPOSITION:** Pending

**LOCATION:** Senate Appropriations Committee

**SUMMARY:**

Provides for a study of the feasibility of establishing an equine processing facility to be located on state, tribal or private lands in the state and to make an appropriation therefor.

**STATUS:**

02/05/2009 In SENATE Committee on APPROPRIATIONS: Deferred to the 41st Legislative Day.

SD SCR 2

**AUTHOR:** Kloucek (D)

**TITLE:** Horse Slaughter Inspection

**INTRODUCED:** 02/02/2009

**ADOPTED:** 02/05/2009

**DISPOSITION:** Adopted

**LOCATION:** Adopted

**SUMMARY:**

Urges the reinstatement and funding of a federal inspection program governing

horse slaughter and euthanasia facilities.

**STATUS:**

02/05/2009 Passed HOUSE.

**Utah**

UT HJR 7

**AUTHOR:** Winn (R)

**TITLE:** Equine Resources Joint Resolution

**INTRODUCED:** 01/26/2009

**DISPOSITION:** Pending

**LOCATION:** SENATE

**SUMMARY:**

This resolution: urges the United States Congress to oppose federal legislation that would interfere with a state's authority to direct the transport or processing of horses; special Clauses: None.

**STATUS:**

02/09/2009 From SENATE Committee on NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIROMENT: Reported favorably.

**Wyoming**

WY HJR 8

**AUTHOR:** Wallis (R)

**TITLE:** Equine Resources

**INTRODUCED:** 01/16/2009

**DISPOSITION:** Pending

**LOCATION:** SENATE

**SUMMARY:**

Urges Congress to oppose federal legislation that interferes with a state's ability to direct the transport or processing of horses.

**STATUS:**

02/10/2009 Passed HOUSE. \*\*\*\*\*To SENATE.

PRESS RELEASE  
3/8/2009

For Immediate Release  
Contact:  
Sue Wallis  
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307 680 8515 cell  
307 685 8248 ranch

# **Wyoming Legislature Passes Resolution to Support Horse Industry,**

## ***& Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal signs House Enrolled Joint Resolution 2 - Equine Resources.***

CHEYENNE, WYOMING - March 3, 2009 - Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal signed House Enrolled Joint Resolution 2 - Equine Resources as prime sponsor Representative Sue Wallis looked on in the final days of the 2009 Wyoming Legislative General Session which adjourned on Thursday, March 5th.

Representative Wallis is the Vice-chair of the Agriculture, State and Public Lands and Water Resources Committee and was joined by co-sponsors including both the House and Senate Chairs of the Committee--Representative Mark Semlek, and Senator Gerald Geis, as well as Representative Lisa Shepperson, Senator John Schiffer, and President of the Senate John Hines.

The Resolution, see text below, calls on the United States Congress to avoid any legislation that would interfere with a state's ability to direct the transport or processing of horses. The bill passed the Wyoming House unanimously, and the Senate on a 25 to 5 vote. "I am very proud and grateful," said Wallis, "for the overwhelming support of my colleagues." "In Wyoming, we understand what a devastating impact these misguided measures have on our traditional ranching way of life, and the livelihoods of horse people everywhere."

Wallis also noted that the elimination of a US based horse processing market and a faltering economy has destroyed the domestic market. Federal legislation has been introduced and supported by radical animal rights organizations that would completely eliminate the export market to Canada and Mexico. If successful, this would be the first time that Americans have been prohibited from using any domestic animal for food, and Wallis noted, "there is really no difference between telling me that I cannot sell my unuseable horse as a food animal than telling a dairyman that he cannot sell his unproductive milk cow for beef, or from telling a shepherd that the only legitimate use for lamb is wool--we are fooling ourselves if we don't think that all of animal agriculture is under attack."

The proponents of a federal ban on the transport of horses for human consumption are able to manipulate public opinion with the use of graphic images taken out of context that depict horse processing as inherently cruel. Most Americans are so far removed from agricultural reality that



they can be easily swayed by emotional and misleading propaganda. "They don't realize," says Wallis, "that every time you put anything into your mouth, whether it is a piece of meat, or a freshly pulled carrot, that you are interrupting the life cycle of a living organism. That is the human condition."

The vegan lifestyle promoted by the animal rights activists behind the federal legislation is extremely dangerous especially for human infants. Over 85% of a human's brain develops in the first three years of life, and without the nutrients that can only be supplied by animal products the brain is incapable of developing properly.

The majority of world cultures including most of Europe and Asia, French Canada and Mexico appreciate horsemeat for its healthy nutrition, taste, and lack of any of the disease concerns of other livestock species. Currently the largest importers of horsemeat are China, Brazil, and Mexico. Since the US plants were closed in 2007, the US imports over 500 metric tons of horsemeat, primarily for the diets of big cats in zoos, but also for ethnic markets such as the Tongans in Salt Lake City. A recent NPR article from Iceland noted that frugal Icelanders in the face of a diminishing economy were turning to traditional foods--skipping the imported beers, and buying twice as much horsemeat which is half the price of beef. Horsemeat was widely consumed in the United States until after World War II.

If a federal ban on the transport of horses, or the use of horses for human consumption, is implemented it does not mean that all of these people will quit eating horses. It just means that they will go elsewhere to get horses. "This is not about a problem of 'unwanted horses,' says Wallis, "this is about our constitutional right to conduct commerce. This is about a federal attempt to eliminate a legitimate market."

The loss of a viable market has seen the numbers of neglected and abandoned horses soar. News reports of starving and emaciated horses have become a daily occurrence throughout the nation. "The canner market used to provide a safety valve," says Wallis, "when somebody could no longer afford to take care of a horse they could market them for their salvage value. Those that considered their horses to be pets and didn't want them entering the food chain could usually find a horse rescue or recovery organization that would take them...most of those organizations are now completely overwhelmed because people have few options left." The end result is that the market for all horses has almost disappeared, sale barns are going out of business, the only horses that are selling at all are registered horses that are well trained and without blemish. A good saddle horse that would have brought \$10,000 to \$12,000 prior to 2007 won't bring \$2,000 today. Most auction barns report a complete inability to get a bid on brood mares, weanlings, or yearlings.

The Wyoming Resolution joins a wave of such measures across the nation including the National Council of State Legislatures, the National Association of Counties, the State Ag and Rural Leaders, the Council of State Governments - Midwest, the International Livestock Identification Association, the Horse Councils of nearly every state in the Union, the American Quarter Horse Association, the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, and many more. Legislative action is taking place in a number of states including Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

Equine Resources

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Wallis, Semlek, and Shepperson, and Senator(s) Geis, Hines, and Schiffer

A Bill

for

A JOINT RESOLUTION urging Congress to oppose federal legislation that interferes with a state's ability to direct the transport or processing of horses.

WHEREAS, the processing of horses has become a controversial and emotional issue and has resulted in the closing of all horse processing facilities throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, federal legislation was introduced to amend the 1970 Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling or donation of horses and other equines for processing and other purposes; and

WHEREAS, the loss of secondary markets has severely impacted the livestock industry by eliminating the salvage value of horses and has significantly reduced the market value of all horses; and

WHEREAS, prohibitions regarding the processing of horses have resulted in significant increases in abandoned and starving animals and have had significant economic impact on the entire equine industry; and

WHEREAS, the increase in unwanted or unusable horses has overwhelmed private animal welfare agencies and the public's ability to care for surplus domestic horses; and

WHEREAS, the annual number of unwanted or unusable surplus domestic horses is estimated to be one hundred thousand (100,000), compounding annually; and

WHEREAS, issues related to the humane handling and slaughter of surplus domestic horses are best addressed by proper regulations and inspection and not by banning or exporting the issue; and

WHEREAS, state agriculture and rural leaders recognize the necessity and benefit of a state's ability to direct the transport and processing of horses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:

Section 1. That Congress is urged to oppose federal legislation that interferes with a state's

ability to direct the transport or processing of horses.

Section 2. That the Secretary of State of Wyoming transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress and the members of the Wyoming Congressional delegation.









